



Western Work

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December, 2011

News of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church



Trust and Obey

Wanda Coffin Baker, Interim Superintendent

“Trust and Obey” is not one of the regular hymns at Christmas time, yet it fits the events around Jesus’ birth.

In Luke, the angel appeared to Mary to tell her she would have a son. “How can this be, since I’m a virgin?” she asked (Lk 1:34). Trust and obey, the angel said (not in those words).

Not long after, Joseph was also visited by an angel – this time in a dream. “Joseph, take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ... You are to name him Jesus.” Mt 1:20-21. When Joseph woke up, he trusted the message and did everything that God commanded him.

Several months later shepherds were watching their flocks when a host of angels appeared in the sky. That must have been scary. “I bring you good news,” the angels said. “To you is born a Savior who is the Christ, the Lord” (Lk 2:10-11). The shepherds trusted the message and immediately went to see the baby in the manger.

Two years later (?), God appeared to the Wise Men. First in the Star which led them to Bethlehem, then in a dream God appeared to them telling them to leave town by another way. (Mt. 2:1-12). They, too, trusted and obeyed the message.

God is still speaking today. He asks us to be attentive to the messages, to trust them and to obey. He speaks to us as individuals, as monthly meetings, and as the Yearly Meeting. What will we do?

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, or there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

(by John H. Sammis and Marc Hedlin ,1887)



P.S. As Interim Superintendent, I look forward to visiting your meeting and getting to know you. Merry Christmas!

Opportunity to Share Devotions

The Office Advisory Committee is asking any pastor in the Western Yearly Meeting to submit a devotion for use in Western Work. If you are interested in submitting a devotion, please email the devotion to westernym@sbcglobal.net or send it by postal mail to Western Yearly Meeting, P.O. Box 70, Plainfield, IN 46168

Welcome to Wanda Coffin Baker

WYM is pleased to welcome Wanda Coffin Baker as Interim Superintendent. Wanda began her duties on November 28. She will be in the office from approximately 9 a.m. to 12 noon Tuesday through Friday. She will be out visiting Meetings, attending Board and Committee meetings and other duties the rest of the time. You can also reach her by email at wandawym@att.net or by phone at 317-839-2789.

News Among Friends

Mayaworks Sale

Downers Grove Friends is hosting a Mayaworks Sale on Friday December 2 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 3 from 3:10-5:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to view and acquire beautiful handicrafts by Mayan women who can support their families because of your fair trade purchases.

Western Yearly Meeting Christmas Concert

Friends are invited to gather on Saturday, December 3, at 3:30 p.m. in the Yearly Meeting Room to usher in the Christmas season with the first-ever **Yearly Meeting Christmas Concert**. Join in celebrating this holy season as we enjoy vocal and instrumental musical offerings from around the Yearly Meeting followed by a time of fellowship in the foyer of the Plainfield Meeting. A free-will offering will be received and money above expenses will go to the Yearly Meeting Special Project for 2011, which is Funds for FUM Field Staff.

All-Church Christmas Party

Mooresville Friends will be hosting an All Church Christmas Party on Sunday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. The Christmas Party begins with a pitch-in dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. The meat, bread, and beverages will be provided, and you are invited to bring a well-filled basket of food to share. Following dinner, the Kid's Club kids will present their play. Everyone is invited to attend!

Fund Raising Opportunity

If your Meeting would like to prepare and serve a meal for 2012 sessions for Western Yearly Meeting in session at Plainfield July 19-22, please contact Ann Carter, clerk of the Program Committee **by January 1, 2012**. This is a good opportunity to make some extra money for your Meeting while serving the Yearly Meeting at the same time. Ann may be reached at cannnc@sbcglobal.net or 765-883-5696, or 8436 W. 500 S., Russiaville, IN 46979.

Administrative Council Synopsis

Following is a synopsis of the WYM Administrative Council Meeting held on November 19, 2011.

- Pat Byers presented his report via Skype, as he was at work on our behalf in attendance at a Youth Conference in Atlanta, GA. We enjoyed seeing today's technology working for us.
- Nominating Committee presented two names for approval:
Becki Sallee, Downers Grove to the Board on Peace and Christian Social Concerns (1/3) 2013
Susan Joyner, Mooresville to the Training and Recording Committee (0/3) 2013
- Wanda Coffin Baker was approved as Interim Superintendent of Western Yearly Meeting through Yearly Meeting sessions of 2013. The search Committee will continue its work.
- The request of Hemlock Friends to withdraw was accepted with heavy heart and deep regret, with two Friends standing aside due to their long relationship with Hemlock Meeting.
- Indiana Yearly Meeting invited Western Yearly meeting and Wilmington Yearly meeting to join them in a year of discernment. Western Yearly Meeting approved declining this invitation at this time, but is requesting that we provide observers to this process.
- A Communications Task Force requests that each Meeting notify the Yearly Meeting office **as soon as possible** of one person from the Meeting to be an official contact to send and receive communications. That person must have internet capability.
- Julie Kappes is serving as temporary clerk of the Board on Christian Education due to the death of Dan Dunham, past clerk.
- The Board on Christian Ministries and Evangelism is expecting to be able to offer grants to pastors to attend the National Pastor's Conference in 2012.
- The Board on Outreach emphasized the need for funds to complete the 2011 Special Project, FUM Field Staff Support. Donations should be sent to the Western Yearly Meeting Benevolence Fund, P.O. Box 70, Plainfield, IN 46168.
- Property Trustees are in the process of selling the remaining 80 acres of the Bone Farm in Tippecanoe County. They offered the possibility of the Yearly Meeting parsonage being used as a parsonage by a YM Monthly Meeting. Interest may be directed to Lewis Taylor, (765) 883-5280 or ltaylor@taylored.com.

Christian Education

From Pat ...

Pat would like to have more contact with some of our College Students. If you know of any students who have not been contacted lately, please send their contact information to Pat at patrick.byers.wym@gmail.com.



Please be in prayer for our young people. Pray for the Youth Cabinet as they minister and lead. Pray for our Sundesmos program as we get our College students together and minister to them. Pray for our Internship program as we get that up and going. Pray for our camp planning process as we look to taking full advantage of those days when we really have the camper's attention.

Missions Update

Iglesia Amigos Update

Iglesia Amigos, the new Hispanic Friends Church in Indianapolis, is raising money for a van. Members of this new church hope to raise \$500 by March 1. The WYM Iglesia Amigos Task Force is looking for ten churches who would commit to raising \$500 a piece to match their sacrificial giving, and multiply it. Would your meeting be able to participate in this exciting match by organizing a fundraiser or taking up a special offering? We need your help! To participate, or for more information, contact Amy Perry at 317-696-5074 or Doug Shoemaker at 1-800-292-5238.

2012 Chain of Prayer: A Great People to be Gathered for Worship, Service, Mission, Witness and Vision!

The annual Chain of Prayer begins January 1 and continues through Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2012. Meetings in North America, Africa, Cuba, Jamaica, Ramallah and Belize make a "Chain of Prayer" by signing up for a time to pray for the ministries of FUM as well as its member monthly meetings. Some meetings have special prayer gatherings, others ask individuals to sign up for half-hour time slots and many take up a special offering for the ministries of Friends United Meeting. Without your prayer and financial support, FUM could not carry out its mission to energize and equip Friends around the world.

In order for your Meeting to participate, complete and submit the online registration form at www.fum.org. You may print this form and it mail to Chain of Prayer, Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374. The registration form includes space for a short description of your meeting and a few prayer concerns. Please respond as soon as possible. FUM will confirm your time after we receive your request.

A month or more before your day on the Chain of Prayer, FUM will send your Meeting publicity materials (the poster and bulletin insert/table flyer can be personalized for your day), information on the Meeting for which you will be praying, and some prayer concerns from FUM's ministries. (from Kim Schull, FUM Administrative Assistant)

Thank You to Friends Disaster Service

Second Friends Indianapolis is grateful to those answering the "call" from Friends Disaster Service to work on our church building and grounds in the last few months. The flat top roof is no longer leaking rain, nor is rain seeping into the basement; the treatment of the walls of the downstairs has eliminated the mold and painting of them has brightened everything. The floor downstairs looks wonderful with all the scraping, and coats of special paint. The foyer upstairs is so much brighter with the new paint and is a welcoming sight. The replacement of the ancient toilet in the men's room has removed a terrible eyesore. The many things done to improve the meetinghouse make us humble, grateful, and thankful. Western and Indiana Yearly Meetings have so many good, helpful people ready to do what is needed. This is an important ministry.

The WYM Youth have done an excellent job of collecting and moving out the excessive "stuff" from many places around the meetinghouse, cleaning in general, and bringing relief to those of us who no longer can take care of these things ourselves. Our praise goes to the Youth for their willingness to do this hard, dirty work of service for a meeting other than their own, especially on Fall Break from school. This too is an important ministry. Thank you, thank you, thank you (From Second Friends of Indianapolis, Phyllis Paulsen, Recording Clerk)

Statistical Report

New Members – Marcia Nelson, Jean & Ed Smith, Laurie Rippe (Downers Grove)

Deaths – Judy Hill (Plainfield) A Memorial Service will be held on December 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Plainfield Friends
Judy was the Manager of Friends Apartment Homes

Office Information

The WYM Office will be closed from Monday, December 26-Friday, December 30, 2011 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.



**MATERIALS
DEADLINE
FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:
12/21/11**

Upcoming Events

December, 2011

- 2 Mayaworks Sale, 4:30-7:00 p.m., Downers Grove Friends
- 3 Mayaworks Sale, 3:10-5:00 p.m., Downers Grove Friends
- 3 WYM Executive Committee, 10:00 a.m., Kelley Room
- 3 WYM Christmas Concert, 3:30 p.m., WYM Meetinghouse
- 11 All-Church Christmas Party, 5:30 p.m., Mooresville Friends

April, 2011

- 24 USFW Spring Conference, Sugar Plain with Colin Saxton

Our Purpose Statement

*Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
Western Yearly Meeting equips Friends Meetings
in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
by exercising mutual care and
extending cooperative ministries.*

*Through various expressions of our
Christian faith,
we strive to inspire ministry and
the release of gifts of leadership.*



Western Yearly Meeting of

FRIENDS CHURCH

203 S. East Street, P.O. Box 70
Plainfield, IN 46168
(317) 839-2789

Website: www.westernym.net

Interim Superintendent

Wanda Coffin Baker

E-mail: wandawym@att.net

Director of Christian Education

Pat Byers

E-mail: patrick.byers.wym@gmail.com

Cell Phone: (260) 571-2406

Office Assistant

Mary Anne Martin

E-mail: westernym@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-12 & 1-3 p.m.

Address Correction Requested